Plan to do some holiday shopping? Choose Community of Hope as your selected AmazonSmile charity and a portion of your sale will benefit our work!

Also, go to www.communityofhopedc.org/wishlist to find items to help our families settle into their new homes.

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**Adopt-A-Family 2018**

‘Tis the season for giving!

This holiday season, give the gift of choice to families in our housing programs by donating Target or Walmart gift cards to Adopt-a-Family.

With your gift, families will celebrate the holidays together and choose their own presents and food. Empower our families with the gift of choice.

To make an Adopt-A-Family gift or to collect with your workplace, house of worship, or book club, contact development@cohdc.org or visit www.communityofhopedc.org/adoptafamily.

Each family will receive a $50 gift card, so please consider giving in $25 or $50 increments.

If you do not wish to receive this publication in the future, please email development@cohdc.org or call 202.407.7747

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*AmazonSmile*

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Deidra Eskew, DC native and mom of two, knew when she came to Community of Hope that she had to change.

She had never known her father and, as a result, went through much of her childhood and into adulthood feeling alone. She had harbored resentment towards her mother – due to her father’s absence and then was burdened with guilt and sadness when her mom passed away. These pains led Deidra down a long, dark path; one of self-medicating and, unfortunately, addiction. Her substance use increased when she took on a managerial role that often required working 24-hour shifts. It all became too stressful and she left her job.

“I had no hope. It was like a revolving door because I had been through this cycle of recovery so many times,” Deidra said. “Even though I had the push and brains to do everything I was supposed to, it wasn’t working. I needed more help.”

Deidra had to get better not only for herself but for her kids. She was later referred to Community of Hope’s transitional housing program, Hope Apartments. This small but important program is one of very few in DC that allows families to remain intact while the head of household works on their recovery goals. Deidra knew that this type of recovery was what her family desperately needed to be happy and stable.

Since arriving at Hope Apartments, Deidra is making daily steps to maintain her sobriety and plan for the future.

(Deidra’s story continues on page 3)
The Commons: A Place Where Children and Families Thrive

This summer, we successfully opened our doors and welcomed neighbors to our newest location, The Commons at Stanton Square! The 55,000 sq. ft. “The Commons” campus is the realization of a collaborative process between community partners, Horning Family Fund, Horning Brothers, Community of Hope and Martha’s Table, designed to ensure the healthy development of children and their families of neighboring Ward 8 communities, Fort Stanton and Hillsdale.

As an anchor organization at The Commons, we have a unique opportunity to significantly impact the lives of children and their families in some of the most under-resourced neighborhoods in the District by offering the following services and supports:

- emotional wellness services such as: Parent Child Interactive Therapy (PCIT), play therapy, and child, adolescent, and family counseling;
- housing stability services, including homelessness prevention and, coming in 2020, case management to families who’ve been chronically homeless, and;
- family support services like parenting classes, social services, and a home-based early childhood intervention programs.

Thanks to our partners, staff, donors and volunteers, The Commons is already making a huge impact in the lives of so many and serving as a place where our new neighbors thrive.

Hope Happenings

National Award for Ending Family Homelessness
On July 24th, we were recognized with the National Alliance to End Homelessness’ Excellence in Ending Family Homelessness Nonprofit Sector Award. National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) also recognized the DC Department of Human Services and E & G Group, a private sector partner developing housing for families. The recognition to public, private and nonprofit partners in Washington, DC comes as the city has reduced family homelessness by 38% since 2016.

More than Just Pencils and Backpacks
With the support of Gallup, Forrester Construction, The Carlyle Group, National Air Traffic Controllers and so many others, we gave away 1,232 backpacks filled with school supplies to K-12 students in Wards 7 and 8. The 6th Annual Bellevue Back to School Bash hosted in partnership with MPD’s Beat the Street and the William O Lockridge/Bellevue Library, included free health care screenings, and other resources to help children prepare for a new school year.

Boosting Up Emotional Wellness
In the last 5 years, our therapy team has grown from 1 to 12 employees and just this year we have added lots of new approaches to emotional wellness – play therapy and parent-child interaction therapy for our youngest clients, Nurturing Parenting classes, medically assisted treatment and addictions counseling. Now we are getting ready to support elementary students with emotional wellness at several Ward 8 schools. We are excited to provide this care in a way that is integrated with medical and other supportive services, making it easy to access and focused on the whole person.

Caring for Moms and Babies
In case you've missed the news coverage, our work to care for moms and babies has been featured in the Washington Post, City Paper, WTOP, Washington Times, and many other publications this year. Read up about this in the News section of our website.
On October 11th, over 400 of our donors, friends and partners came together for our annual celebratory reception, Night of Hope.

Guests enjoyed an evening of beautiful views of the US Capitol, signature cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, and an opportunity to participate in our Give Hope Moment. They also witnessed an inspirational program with reflections from client, Ms. Christine Carroll, who delivered a powerful story of how Community of Hope created light during one of the darkest periods in her life. Her courage and resiliency inspired us all to continue to be a light in our community.

We are truly grateful for our Innovation sponsor, Bill Conway of the Bedford Falls Foundation; our Sustainer sponsors; Joseph and Lynne Horning; PNC Bank; SB Capitol Solutions; Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Walker & Dunlop; our Partner sponsors, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, Fort Myer Construction Company, Horning Brothers, Visionary Eye Doctors/Dr. Lenny Friedman and Colleen Ryan; Contributor sponsors, AECG Group, Bank of America, City First Bank of DC, Elissa and Tom Davidson; and Friend sponsors, AmeriHealth Caritas District of Columbia, Anthem, Inc., Homesnap, Industrial Bank of DC, KatzAbosch, Lockton Companies, National Cooperative Bank, Palm Facility Services, The HSC Health Care System, Trusted Health Plan, USI Insurance Services, WC Smith; as well as our emcee for the evening, WUSA9 reporter, Delia Goncalves.

With the support of Hope staff and services, Deidra is letting go of suppressed anger and hurt from her childhood and challenges in her adult life, allowing her to feel free again.

“My barriers are being broken down day by day,” she said. “I’m not angry anymore and the hurt is gone too. It’s a lot of things that are pushing me to go further now, and I know I can do it.”

Deidra worked with her case manager to create a plan towards achieving her goals. In Deidra’s first month of being at Hope, she completed eight action steps on that plan! She shifted priorities, and is focused on tasks like keeping her house organized and clean, ensuring her kids are off to school, and achieving more goals off her list. Next, it will be going back to school for medical billing and landing a good job in an office setting. She is also accessing the resources available at Hope to help manage her finances. Deidra says that, when she got to Hope, she knew that her family was going to be okay because of the support systems surrounding them and the encouragement pushing her to do better.

“When I got to Community of Hope, I felt a newfound freedom. I’m around people that are trying to do the same things as I am; be better” she said. “That makes me feel comfortable and it gives me back my hope.”